

Claims

- [c1] What is claimed is:
1. A method of cross-pollinating postings across more than one computerized bulletin board comprising the steps of:
determining at least one topic of relevance of a post to a computerized bulletin board;
determining one or more other computerized bulletin boards related to the at least one topic of relevance; and
placing a copy of the post on each of the one or more other computerized bulletin boards related to the at least one topic of relevance.
 - [c2] 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of searching the post for one or more keywords indicative of the at least one topic of relevance.
 - [c3] 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of accessing a smart database and determining therefrom terms related to the one or more keywords.
 - [c4] 4. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of matching the one or more keywords with one or more computerized bulletin board topic identifiers to determine an appropriate computerized bulletin board to place a copy of the post.
 - [c5] 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the computerized bulletin board is related to general topics of relevance and the one or more other computerized bulletin boards are related to specific topics of relevance.
 - [c6] 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of scanning text of the post to the computerized bulletin board related to general topics of relevance for keywords referencing one or more specific topics of relevance and automatically placing a copy of the post on each of the one or more other computerized bulletin boards related to the one or more specific topics of relevance.
 - [c7] 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of automatically placing a copy of a post to a computerized bulletin board related to a specific topic of

relevance on the computerized bulletin board dedicated to general topics of relevance.

[c8] 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining if the post relates to a thread of previous posts on the computerized bulletin board and, if so, automatically placing the post in the thread.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of automatically creating a new thread on the computerized bulletin board related to the at least one topic of relevance.

[c10] 10. A computer readable storage medium having a computer program for content tagging posts to computerized bulletin boards and representing a set of instructions that when executed by a computer causes the computer to:
detect a user post to a general computerized bulletin board;
determine one or more specific topics of relevance of the user post;
determine one or more specific computerized bulletin boards dedicated to the one or more specific topics of relevance; and
place a copy of the user post on each of the one or more specific computerized bulletin boards.

[c11] 11. The computer readable storage medium of claim 10 wherein the set of instructions further causes the computer to search the user post for one or more keywords indicative of the one or more specific topics of relevance to which the user post refers.

[c12] 12. The computer readable storage medium of claim 11 wherein the set of instructions further causes the computer to scan at least text in a subject identifier and text in a body of the user post to find the one or more keywords indicative of the one or more specific topics of relevance.

[c13] 13. The computer readable storage medium of claim 10 wherein the set of instructions further causes the computer to determine an author of the post and based on the determined author place a copy of the post to one or more specific computerized bulletin boards dedicated to one or more fields of interest of the author.

[c14] 14. The computer readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the set of instructions further causes the computer to determine the one or more fields of interest of the author from a look-up table containing data correlating author information with field-of-interest information.

[c15] 15. The computer readable storage medium of claim 10 wherein the set of instructions further causes the computer to automatically place the user post in a thread dedicated to a specific topic of relevance on the one or more specific computerized bulletin boards.

[c16] 16. The computer readable storage medium of claim 10 wherein the set of instructions further causes the computer to automatically generate a new thread on a specific computerized bulletin board dedicated to a specific topic of relevance of the user post.

[c17] 17. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a set of instructions which, when executed by at least one processor, causes the at least one processor to integrate a post with one or more computerized bulletin boards by:

displaying a GUI having thereon one or more buttons, wherein each button is associated with a topic of interest;

detecting a user selection of a button;

receiving a post relevant to a topic of interest associated with the button selected;

placing the post on a computerized bulletin board dedicated to the topic of interest;

determining another topic of interest to which the post is relevant; and

automatically placing a copy of the post on another computerized bulletin board related to the another topic of interest.

[c18] 18. The computer data signal of claim 17 further causing the act of determining at least one subtopic of interest of the user post.

[c19] 19. The computer data signal of claim 18 further causing the act of assigning the post to a thread of previous posts discussing a subtopic of interest.

[c20] 20. The computer data signal of claim 18 further causing the act of generating a new thread of discussion related to a subtopic of interest if there is not an existing thread of discussion dedicated to the subtopic of interest.

[c21] 21. The computer data signal of claim 12 further causing the act of detecting a user post directly to a computerized bulletin board dedicated to a topic of interest and automatically placing a copy of the user post directly to another computerized bulletin board dedicated to another topic of interest to which the user post directly to the computerized bulletin board relates.

[c22] 22. A computerized system of networked bulletin boards to facilitate discussion of a number of topics of interest comprising:
a set of content-specific bulletin boards wherein each content-specific bulletin board is dedicated to a specific topic of interest;
a content-general bulletin board dedicated to a general topic interest related to the specific topics of interest;
at least one GUI having a hyperlink thereon corresponding to at least one of the content-specific bulletin boards and the content-general bulletin board; and
a computer having:
means to display the at least one GUI;
means to detect a user post associated with at least one topic of interest;
means to determine at least one of a specific topic of interest and a general topic of interest of the user post; and
means to automatically place a copy of the user post on each content-specific bulletin board to which the post relates and on the content-general bulletin board.